(d) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) Under the National Sericulture Project (NSP) a Silkworm Seed Technology Laboratory is proposed to be set up by the Central Silk Board (CSB). Among others, Madanapalle in Andhra Pradesh was one of the places being considered for locating this laborary. The Central Silk Board had constituted a Scientific Committee for recommmending the locations of the various Institutes proposed to be established under NSP This Committee considered the matter in detail and recommended locating the said Laboratory at Kodathi in Karnataka.

Hike in news prinf price by State Trading Corporation

1085. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of imported newsprint has been hiked recently by the State Trading Corporation;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the increase; and

(c) whether the newspaper owners have protested against the increase?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL): (a) and (b) The release prices of newsprint for each quarter are fixed by the Newsprint Price Fixation Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on which STC is only a Member.

The level of release prices for the fourth quarter January—March, 1991, as compared to the prices for the preceding quarter(s), are slightly higher due to the progressive increase in the prevailing international prices, as also Dollar-Rupee rate parity fluctuations, etc., especially on imports from General Currency Area.

(c) The President, All India Small and Medium Newspapers Federation who is a non-official member of the Newsprint Price Fixation Advisory Committee had submitted his resignation from the Membership of the Committee in protest against the Committee's decision on price fixation of imported newsprint for the quarter January—March 1991.

Seizure of HMT watch components

1086. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Customs have recently seized many consignments of watch components bearing HMT markings; and

(b) if so, the details thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Acting on intelligence, the Officers of Customs of Bangalore Collectorate searched the factory/office/godown premises of various units of M/s. HMT Ltd. located in and around Bangalore on 26th, 27th, 30th and 31st October and 29th November, 1990. During the search, wrist watch parts and components of foreign origin worth approximately Rs. 1,09,21,210 which had been imported by various parties located in Bangalore, Bombay and Navsari (Gujarat) and reportedly sold to M/s. HMT Limited in contravention of the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962 and rules and notifications issued thereunder and certain documents were seized.